

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of original Claim 2. Claim 2 is cancelled.

Claim 7 is amended to include the limitations of original Claim 8. Claim 8 is cancelled.

Claims 3-4, 13, 16-19 and 23-24, which were withdrawn by the Examiner, are cancelled.

Claims 20 and 21 are amended to correct clerical errors.

New independent Claim 27 is of the same scope as original dependent Claim 14.

New independent Claim 28 is of the same scope as original dependent Claim 20.

New dependent Claims 29 and 30 respectively recite the same limitations as recited in original Claims 21 and 22, which depend from Claim 20.

The Summary of the Invention portion of the Specification is amended to be consistent with the scope of the amended independent claims.

Restriction Requirement

The provisional election to prosecute the invention of Group 1 is affirmed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

To the extent that the rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-12 14-15, 20-22 and 25-26 under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Schafer is applicable to the currently presented Claims 1, 5-7, 9-12, 14-15, 20-22 and 25-26, said rejection is respectively traversed for at least the following reasons:

Schafer neither discloses nor suggests a ribbed component in which the ribs of the first wall component are wider than the thickness of the web, as required by both of independent Claims 1 and 7. The extension of a rib away from the web of a component having two or more ribs and a web therebetween is the height of the rib, not the width, as asserted by the Examiner.

Regarding dependent Claim 14, Schafer neither discloses nor suggests a ribbed component, in which a pair of ribs that are spaced apart to define a notch in which a rib of another wall component is disposed are such that one rib of the pair of spaced-apart ribs of the notched wall component contacts the web of the other wall component, and the other rib of the pair of spaced-apart ribs of the notched wall component does not contact the web of the other wall component, as required by Claim 14. Please see FIG. 6A of the present application.

Regarding dependent Claim 20, Schafer neither discloses nor suggests a coherent product having first and opposing wall components, each including two or more ribs and a web therebetween, wherein at least a portion of the ribs of one wall component directly or indirectly contact the other wall component, and at least a portion of the web of the one wall component is apart from the web of the other wall component; and wherein the ribs of the one wall component are aligned at an angle to the ribs of the other wall component, and at least a portion of the ribs of the one wall component contact at least a portion of the ribs of the other wall component, as required by Claim 20. Please see FIG. 17 of the present application.

To the extent that the rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-9, 12, 14-15, 20-22 and 25-26 under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Burling is applicable to the currently presented Claims 1, 5-7, 12, 14-15, 20-22 and 25-26, said rejection is respectively traversed for at least the following reasons:

Burling neither discloses nor suggests a ribbed component in which the ribs of the first wall component are wider than the thickness of the web, as required by both of independent Claims 1 and 7.

Regarding dependent Claim 14, Burling neither discloses nor suggests a ribbed component, in which a pair of ribs that are spaced apart to define a notch in which a rib of another wall component is disposed are such that one rib of the pair of spaced-apart ribs of the notched wall component contacts the web of the other wall component, and the other rib of the pair of spaced-apart ribs of the notched wall component does not contact the web of the other wall component, as required by Claim 14. Please see FIG. 6A of the present application.

Regarding dependent Claim 20, Burling neither discloses nor suggests a coherent product having first and opposing wall components, each including two or more ribs and a web therebetween, wherein at least a portion of the ribs of one wall component directly or indirectly contact the other wall component, and at least a portion of the web of the one wall component is apart from the web of the other wall component; and wherein the ribs of the one wall component are aligned at an angle to the ribs of the other wall component, and at least a portion of the ribs of the one wall component contact at least a portion of the ribs of the other wall component, as required by Claim 20. Please see FIG. 17 of the present application. With reference to the Examiner's assertion regarding Claim 21 that "portions 14 and 16 of the second component 13 can be deemed to be a single rib angled at 90 degrees from the web that includes an indentation, with a rib 17 of the first component contacting the indentation", such assertion does not appear to pertain to the limitations of Claim 20, from which Claim 21 depends. Claim 20 requires that the ribs of one component be aligned at an angle to the ribs of the other component, rather than at an angle to the wall of the other component.

Dependent Claims 5-6, 9-12, 14-15, 20-22 and 25-26 ultimately depend on one or the other of Claims 1 and 7 and thereby are allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above in support of the allowance of independent Claims 1 and 7. Dependent Claims 21-22 are also allowable as set forth above for the allowance of Claim 20.

New Claims

New independent Claim 27 is allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above for the allowance of Claim 14.

New independent Claim 28 is allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above for the allowance of Claim 20.

Conclusion

Applicants do not necessarily agree with any of the Examiner's comments regarding the applicability of the cited references to any of the claims. However, in view of the reasons presented herein for traversing the rejections of the claims, applicants are not presenting additional arguments at this time. Applicants reserve the right to present additional arguments for traversing the present and any future rejections of the claims.

Reconsideration of Claims 1-2, 5-12 14-15, 20-22 and 25-26 and examination of new Claims 27-30 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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